

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Paul Kane High School

Council meeting minutes for January 18, 2018

1. In attendance: Anna Wong, Rhonda Brown, Donna Nilsson, Michelle Neraasen, Tamara Mar, Cheryl Dumont, Pam Parker, Julie Mann-Johnson, Josh Machney, Duncan Knoll, Betty Hahn-Sidor

2. Approval of the agenda - Addition to agenda: awards night

3. Approval of minutes - Donna accepted and Michelle seconded

4. Business:

Principal's Report – Duncan Knoll

Exam Cycle - tomorrow afternoon last day of formal classes, then exams. Some last unit tests written tomorrow. Teachers still available for tutoring or help if needed. In-class marks due January 19th.

Stakeholder workshop - hosted on January 31st from 9-noon. If anyone wants to attend and go in a parent position- up to two parent spots available. Activity is quite interesting and informative, based on theme with questions, and used for visioning for the district.

Semester Two – Paul Kane has 1036 students registered. Classes start on Feb 1. New development is that there will be Synervoice communication system to inform parents of student absences. There is an option of declining getting voice messages.

Education Plan presentation – Mr. Knoll, Ms. Dodd and Ms. Madsen presented Paul Kane's Education Plan to the trustees. Highlights were the PKHS acronym, the very good academic performance, and Satisfaction Survey results. The document was well received. There was an effort to reduce the size of document from 64 to 28 pages while still including central ideas and it's posted on PK website. Objectives and priority areas include enhanced Instructional Practice and Leadership, Heighten Student Engagement, and Implement Diverse Learning Supports.

Les Miserables – performances Jan 17-19 at the Arden Theatre. It's a collaborative effort involving Art, Music, Drama, Tech and Construction departments. Over 60

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students involved and all shows are sold out. Comments from council indicated a wide range of attendees including seniors, schools, etc allowing the production to reach the greater community. There was a good write up on front page of the St Albert Gazette, which is useful marketing. It was an expensive production with good quality. Mr. Knoll wants to thank the St. Albert Community, parents, students and staff for their tremendous contributions.

Trustee's Report – Cheryl Dumont

Education Plans - normally in November, moved to January due to election. Two full days and went well. Cheryl mentioned they are glad when parents attend. All 15 schools and various departments reported. You can see how everyone is driven in seeing success; survey results excellent. We visit 5 schools every year as well, with MLA Horne attending.

Kindergarten fair was exciting and busy. Seems to be a trend happening in St. Albert with over 600 registrations last year. Booths set up included occupational, transportation, library, cognito and logos program, getting ready for school, etc. took place Jan 13.

Health and Wellness Policy review - belief statement and recent policies and board regulations added. We are talking about importance of mental health, polices going out for review and would like feedback.

Stakeholders Workshop is January 31st

Awaiting regulations on transportation fees and what Government will do on School Act changes regarding walk limit.

Teacher employee Bargaining Association (TEBA) - Cheryl is rep this year. Recently settled matters between central and local level. Will begin negotiations soon.

A letter was sent to the minister regarding suspension of Excellence in Teaching Awards - looking forward to see what they decide about award.

Discussing ways to advocate for no reduction to Alberta Education staff doing work on Indigenous Studies, rather than reduction in that area. Scheduled to be reduced from 5-2

Board Meeting presentations - Parents invited to attend. Last time RCSD, Sturgeon and St. Albert not introduced by NDP. Government is listening and RCSD is being funded.

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Excellent report from Marianne Barrett about First Nation and Inuit strategic plan. Help us with protocol and meeting same marks for indigenous students. Re truth and reconciliation and understanding. Duncan mentioned they had students work on tile project last year called Project of Heart! Dream Catcher in Student Lounge.

Health and Wellness Initiative - Josh Machney

Within school it is nicknamed the blue zone- similar to the blue zone documentary. Commonalities between 5 areas, also based off conference called ever-active schools.

Past projects include staff wellness challenge. Staff are also seen as role models. Natasha Taggart started a new Health and Wellness student club and hoping to rejuvenate interest.

On-going projects:

1. Healthifying our Cafeteria – offering healthier choices at attractive prices.
 - theme days, fries only available Fridays, smoothies, more vegetarian options, healthier dishes
2. Healthy meals at staff PD days
3. Incorporating attention to nutrition and physical activity into courses – sports med, foods, fitness, crossfit, phys ed, science 10 and biology 20.

New projects include blue zone cabinet with nutrition tips, recipes, workouts, sleeping tips, tips to deal with stress and 'Did you know?', newspaper articles and free fruit available in front office, student services and staff room, and in conjunction with Angie Lockhart and SU we are doing Winter Olympics.

Council members asked question about cost recovery of cafeteria- Duncan said it does not make a profit but rather that it's important to have. Although staffed, students do help out in the cafeteria.

Suggestion by Michelle to place info on website as well as Blue Cabinet, i.e. Recipes and workouts.

Discussion around tapping into fruit being available on a regular basis within the school. Josh is championing this for the school currently. Duncan said the challenge lies on the large number of students, but if the fruit was donated that would be great. Cheryl mentioned there is a pilot regarding nutrition; Rotary Club supports 'appetite for learning' which provides breakfast. Food is usually provided to elementary schools, but there is a

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need in the high schools as well. Cheryl said the community village and food bank provide to outreach school. Donna asked if there has been communication been done with local grocery stores, but concerns around liabilities. Suggestion to develop rapport with managers of stores or to order extra at cost through grocery store. Duncan mentioned Sisco might be a resource as well. Josh mentioned blue zone was discontinued in Okinawa because food chains started opening and people not living as long.

COSC Report – Michelle Neraasen

Blanket exercise from 6:30-8pm. Donna asked if registration necessary; people should call office to register. Jan 22 - email was sent. Parent session this spring. Presenter is David Irvine on Apr 6 at Lois Hole school. Basic info will be emailed. Focus is his book called the Art of Caring.

Open house in early March at PK would be good time to have ticket distribution.

Presentation by Community and Social Development. They can come to present to council on Mental Health topics: provide tools and process, mental health first aide course, and safe talk course on suicide alertness/intervention. Cost recovery for courses. Also distribute community vibes newsletter-currently school admin receives it.

Cheryl mentioned that student advisory said that kids would like support in helping peers. Kids are speaking out about these struggles now. Linda Noblock is an engaging speaker. Invitation will be extended for her to speak on third Thursday.

Health and Wellness policy will be sent out by Michelle.

Issue resolution: advocacy at provincial policy

Michelle talked about the high school credit cap. The cap is at 45 credits per grade but rather than capping annually there is a suggestion for a maximum for the high school period - total of 130 for years in high school. Duncan says that there would be a loss of funding by \$180k. the credit cap is intended as a funding control policy, therefore a limit of credit total. More students would benefit if the cap was throughout high school because of lower percentage of credits in final year. It currently allows parents to reduce learning resource fees or transportation fees, thereby maintaining the budget. For example, with the kindergarten population going up it would maintain funding. Duncan indicates that at PK we are not looking at controlling student credits, rather we allow students to take additional options, but just don't receive funding. More grade 12 students are under the limit and just round out with work experience. Students must have 100 credits in total but will take more to improve their portfolio. Donna mentioned

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that if the cap is necessary than have it over the high school years and just not pay for anything over the 130 total. Cheryl said you can vote or write to the minister. Michelle said she will send input to indicate our view, then send second letter.

Looked at monitoring of school clubs: related to sexuality specifically, impact on rights and religious beliefs. The bigger piece seems to be the GSAs. In regards to the material being shared, parents should be notified as per law. Julie said we should ask for the definition. Decision made that sexual content needs to be identified first.

Awards Nights discussion by Rhonda. She mentioned that the last two Paul Kane awards nights were well organized and a lot of work. Concerns are that grade 12s are unable to attend because it happens the following year, and it was very long - to the point that there is almost nobody left and it goes late. In brainstorming some solutions, suggestion was made to separate the grade 12s to another night, as this would shorten the time frame. It could also be cost effective to do it at the high school. Duncan addressed changes they have made over the years and agreed that the evening is too long. Students who receive multiple awards could come up and get their awards all at once. Grade 10 awards cannot be given out until all grades calculated. Council member mentioned that the gazette identifies students who achieved honors recognition. Michelle mentioned that you can separate grades with time frames throughout the evening as well. Duncan will take back suggestions to streamline the process.

5. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018
6. Meeting adjourned 9pm.